

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of making a package **[(5)]** comprising a mineral wool product **[(1)]** substantially air-tightly enclosed by a foil **[(25)]**,

~~characterised by~~ comprising

bringing about a dimensional reduction of said mineral wool product **[(1)]** by mechanically compressing said mineral wool product **[(1)]** in a first direction using mechanical compressing means **[(30)]** and

evacuating said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product **[(1)]** enclosed by said foil **[(25)]**,

said evacuation being performed while essentially maintaining said dimensional reduction,

and said mechanical compression provided by said compressing means **[(30)]** being released while performing said evacuation.

2. (Currently amended) **[[A]]** The method according to ~~the preceding~~ claim 1, wherein said evacuation of said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product **[(1)]** enclosed by said foil **[(25)]** ~~being~~ is selected to maintain, or essentially maintain, said dimensional reduction.

3-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently amended) **[[A]]** The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 or 2, wherein said mineral wool product **[(1)]** ~~having~~ has substantially parallel opposed surfaces **[(1')]** defining before said compression a dimension (T) of

said mineral wool product ~~[(1)]~~, said mechanical compressing means ~~[(30)]~~ applying a uniform or essentially uniform pressure against said opposed surfaces ~~[(1')]~~.

7. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to ~~the preceding~~ claim 6, wherein the pressure within said package ~~[(5)]~~ comprising said mineral wool product ~~[(1)]~~ enclosed by said foil ~~[(25)]~~ is balanced with the pressure on said surfaces ~~[(1')]~~ required to obtain said dimensional reduction (T-t).

8. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to ~~the preceding~~ claim 7, wherein said mechanical compressing means ~~[(30)]~~ includes a flat surface ~~[(30')]~~ press applied flatly against at least one of said opposed surfaces ~~[(1')]~~ and displaced to provide said dimensional reduction (T-t).

9. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 8, wherein the dimensional reduction ~~being is~~ is at most 70%, ~~preferably no more than 60%~~.

10. (Currently amended) An apparatus ~~[(A)]~~ for making a package ~~[(5)]~~ comprising a mineral wool product ~~[(1)]~~ substantially air-tightly enclosed by a foil ~~[(25)]~~, ~~characterised by~~ comprising

mechanical compressing means ~~[(30)]~~ adapted for receiving said mineral wool product ~~[(1)]~~ and for compressing said mineral wool product ~~[(1)]~~ in a first direction to bring about a dimensional reduction thereof,

wrapping means ~~[(W)]~~ for enclosing said mineral wool product ~~[(1)]~~ with a web of a substantially air-tight foil ~~[(25)]~~,

evacuating means **[(40)]** arranged downstream of said compressing means **[(30)]** for evacuating said mineral wool product **[(1)]** compressed by said compressing means **[(30)]** and enclosed by said foil **[(25)]**.

11. (Currently amended) **[[An]]** The apparatus according to ~~the preceding~~ claim 10, wherein said wrapping means **[(W)]** ~~being~~ is operable to wrap said foil **[(25)]** around said mineral wool product **[(1)]** before activation of said mechanical compressing means **[(30)]** for bringing about said dimensional reduction, said wrapping means **[(W)]** comprising sealing means ~~(17, 18)~~ operable to seal said foil **[(25)]** after said wrapping, said evacuating means **[(40)]** being operable to evacuate said mineral wool product **[(1)]** enclosed by said sealed foil **[(25)]**.

12. (Currently amended) **[[An]]** The apparatus according to ~~the preceding~~ claim 11, including conveyor means ~~(8, 9; 12", 14)~~ for conveying said mineral wool product **[(1)]** along a path, said wrapping means **[(W)]** including a supply **[(15)]** of said web and receiving means **[(20)]** for receiving an end of said web, said web being extendable between said supply **[(25)]** and said receiving means **[(20)]** across said path to receive said mineral wool product **[(1)]** in a receiving area **[(R)]**, said compressing means **[(30)]** being arranged downstream of said receiving area **[(R)]**.

13. (Currently amended) **[[An]]** The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said wrapping means **[(W)]** ~~being~~ is operable to wrap said web around said mineral wool product **[(1)]** after activation of said mechanical compressing means **[(30)]** for bringing about said dimensional reduction, said wrapping means **[(W)]** comprising sealing means ~~(17, 18)~~ operable to seat said foil **[(25)]** after said wrapping, said

evacuating means [(40)] being operable to evacuate said mineral wool product [(1)] enclosed by said sealed foil [(25)].

14. (Currently amended) [(An)] The apparatus according to ~~the preceding~~ claim 11, including conveyor means for conveying said mineral wool product [(1)] along a path, said wrapping means [(W)] including a supply [(15)] of said web and receiving means [(20)] for receiving an end of said web, said web being extendable between said supply [(15)] and said receiving means [(20)] across said path to receive said mineral wool product [(1)] in a receiving area [(R)], said compressing means [(30)] being arranged upstream of said receiving area [(R)].

15. (Currently amended) [(An)] The apparatus according to any ~~the preceding~~ one of claims 10-14, wherein said evacuation means [(40)] ~~including~~ includes surfaces (12', 12") for maintaining said dimensional reduction during said evacuation.

16. (Currently amended) [(An)] The apparatus according to ~~any of the preceding claims 10-15~~ claim 10, wherein said compressing means ~~including~~ includes a flat surface [(30')] displaceable press [(30)].

17. (Currently amended) [(An)] The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said wrapping means [(W)] ~~being~~ is operable to wrap said web around said mineral wool product [(1)] during activation of said mechanical compressing means [(30)] to bring about said dimensional reduction, said wrapping means [(W)] comprising sealing means (17, 18) operable to seal said foil [(25)] after said wrapping, said evacuating means [(40)] being operable to evacuate said mineral wool product [(1)] enclosed by said sealed foil [(25)].

18. (Currently amended) ~~[[An]]~~ The apparatus according to ~~the preceding~~ claim 17, wherein said mechanical compressing means ~~[[(30)]]~~ including includes first and second opposed conveyor means ~~(9', 9")~~ for conveying said mineral wool product ~~[[(1)]]~~ along a path and defining therebetween a passage of decreasing width for obtaining said dimensional reduction, said wrapping means ~~[[(W)]]~~ including a supply ~~[[(15)]]~~ of said web and receiving means ~~[[(20)]]~~ for receiving an end of said web, said receiving means ~~[[(20)]]~~ for receiving an end of said web, said web being extendable between said supply ~~[[(15)]]~~ and said receiving means across said path to receive said mineral wool product ~~[[(1)]]~~ in a receiving area, said compressing means ~~[[(30)]]~~ being arranged downstream of said receiving area.

19. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the dimensional reduction is no more than 60%.

20. (New) A method of making a package comprising a mineral wool product substantially air-tightly enclosed by a foil comprising

bringing about a dimensional reduction of said mineral wool product by mechanically compressing said mineral wool product in a first direction using mechanical compressing means and

evacuating said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product enclosed by said foil,

said evacuation being performed while essentially maintaining said dimensional reduction,

and said mechanical compression provided by said compressing means being released while performing said evacuation,

wherein said mineral wool product is enclosed by said foil after said mechanical compression, said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product enclosed by said foil being then evacuated.

21. (New) The method according to claim 20, wherein said evacuation of said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product enclosed by said foil is selected to maintain, or essentially maintain, said dimensional reduction.

22. (New) The method according to claim 20 or 21, wherein said mineral wool product has substantially parallel opposed surfaces defining before said compression a dimension (T) of said mineral wool product, said mechanical compressing means applying a uniform or essentially uniform pressure against said opposed surfaces.

23. (New) The method according to claim 22, wherein the pressure within said package comprising said mineral wool product enclosed by said foil is balanced with the pressure on said surfaces required to obtain said dimensional reduction (T-t).

24. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein said mechanical compressing means includes a flat surface press applied flatly against at least one of said opposed surfaces and displaced to provide said dimensional reduction (T-t).

25. (New) The method according to claim 24, wherein the dimensional reduction is at most 70%.

26. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein the dimensional reduction is no more than 60%.

27. (New) A method of making a package comprising a mineral wool product substantially air-tightly enclosed by a foil, comprising

bringing about a dimensional reduction of said mineral wool product by mechanically compressing said mineral wool product in a first direction using mechanical compressing means and

evacuating said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product enclosed by said foil,

said evacuation being performed while essentially maintaining said dimensional reduction,

and said mechanical compression provided by said compressing means being released while performing said evacuation,

wherein said mineral wool product is enclosed by said foil before said mechanical compression, said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product enclosed by said foil being then evacuated.

28. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein said evacuation of said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product enclosed by said foil is selected to maintain, or essentially maintain, said dimensional reduction.

29. (New) The method according to claim 27 or 28, wherein said mineral wool product has substantially parallel opposed surfaces defining before said compression a dimension (T) of said mineral wool product, said mechanical compressing means applying a uniform or essentially uniform pressure against said opposed surfaces.

30. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein the pressure within said package comprising said mineral wool product enclosed by said foil is balanced with the pressure on said surfaces required to obtain said dimensional reduction (T-t).

31. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein said mechanical compressing means includes a flat surface press applied flatly against at least one of said opposed surfaces and displaced to provide said dimensional reduction (T-t).

32. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein the dimensional reduction is at most 70%.

33. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein the dimensional reduction is no more than 60%.

34. (New) A method of making a package comprising a mineral wool product substantially air-tightly enclosed by a foil, comprising

bringing about a dimensional reduction of said mineral wool product by mechanically compressing said mineral wool product in a first direction using mechanical compressing means and

evacuating said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product (1) enclosed by said foil,

said evacuation being performed while essentially maintaining said dimensional reduction,

and said mechanical compression provided by said compressing means being released while performing said evacuation,

wherein said mineral wool product is enclosed by said foil during said mechanical compression, said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product enclosed by said foil being then evacuated.

35. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein said evacuation of said dimensionally reduced mineral wool product enclosed by said foil is selected to maintain, or essentially maintain, said dimensional reduction.

36. (New) The method according to claim 34 or 35, wherein said mineral wool product has substantially parallel opposed surfaces defining before said compression a dimension (T) of said mineral wool product, said mechanical compressing means applying a uniform or essentially uniform pressure against said opposed surfaces.

37. (New) The method according to claim 36, wherein the pressure within said package comprising said mineral wool product enclosed by said foil is balanced with the pressure on said surfaces required to obtain said dimensional reduction (T-t).

38. (New) The method according to claim 37 wherein said mechanical compressing means includes a flat surface press applied flatly against at least one of said opposed surfaces and displaced to provide said dimensional reduction (T-t).

39. (New) The method according to claim 38, wherein the dimensional reduction is no more than 70%.

40. (New) The method according to claim 39, wherein the dimensional reduction is no more than 60%.